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Viewing cable 05NEWDELHI4721, SCENESETTER FOR INDIAN DEFENSE MINISTER MUKHERJEE,S 25 JUNE - 2 JULY VISIT TO THE USA

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Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
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If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#05NEWDELHI4721**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
05NEWDELHI4721	2005-06-21 12:09	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET	Embassy New Delhi

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/the-india-cables/article1576796.ece>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 08 NEW DELHI 004721

SIPDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/21/2030

TAGS: [PREL](#) [ETTC](#) [ETRD](#) [KNNP](#) [MASS](#) [PTER](#) [IN](#) [NP](#) [PK](#) [IZ](#) [IR](#)

SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR INDIAN DEFENSE MINISTER MUKHERJEE,S 25 JUNE - 2 JULY VISIT TO THE USA

Classified By: Ambassador David Mulford for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Secretary Rumsfeld, we appreciate your willingness to host the upcoming visit of Indian Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee, ar

[1](#)2. (C) Mukherjee's trip to the US comes soon after Secretary of State Rice's highly successful March 16-17 visit to India and just before Pri

[1](#)3. (C) In light of Mukherjee's position as de facto Deputy Prime Minister, we see five objectives we can advance during his visit:
-- Strategic: Underscore the significance of a broad US-India relationship toward achieving shared strategic, global, regional, and economic c
-- Defense: Emphasize the importance of a deeper defense relationship in the context of our broader strategic relationship with India, highlig
-- Regional: Laud unprecedented progress in the Indo-Pak relationship and reaffirm the effective US-India regional partnership in meeting shar
-- Economic: Highlight our strong desire to use the US-India Economic Dialogue to remove blockages to bilateral trade and direct investment, i
-- Iraq: As a strategic partner with interests beyond its immediate region, seek GOI commitment to immediate and long-term engagement in recor

[1](#)4. (SBU) In sum, the Defense Minister's visit comes at a time when the goal of establishing a key strategic relationship is becoming reality.

NSSP and Strategic Partnership

[1](#)5. (C) Until Secretary Rice's March visit, the keystone for our new relationship with India was the NSSP, which set the objective of extendir

[1](#)6. (S) However, they reacted strongly to parts of A/S Rademaker's recent presentation on the steps India must still take to conclude the NSSP

Defense Equipment Sales--Underexploited

[1](#)7. (C) Closely related to this NSSP agenda is our ongoing effort to address Indian concerns about US reliability as a supplier for major weapc

[1](#)8. (C) We currently see serious potential for the sale or lease of P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft, and a chance to compete for multi-rol

Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement (ACSA)

[1](#)9. (C) One key administrative goal to further advance our defense cooperation programs is the completion of an ACSA. Our Embassy has initiated

Research Development Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) Agreement

[1](#)10. (C) The GOI views R&D collaboration as an important part of the defense supply relationship. Furthermore, the quality of the Indian S&T

Rapidly Expanding Mil-Mil Engagement

[1](#)11. (C) India and the US now routinely engage in military exercises of growing scope and sophistication. The Malabar 2004 naval exercise test

Nonproliferation, Missile Defense, and PSI

[1](#)12. (C) India has endeavored to prove itself a responsible member of the nuclear club, upholding a "no first use" policy coupled with an ur

Economic Reform

[1](#)13. (SBU) The GOI recognizes the need for structural and regulatory changes to build market institutions, reduce the role of government in the

Indo-Pak Upswing

[1](#)14. (C) Indo-Pak relations continue to improve, to the point where it is now difficult to imagine a return to the high tension and crisis dip

Domestic Politics

[1](#)15. (C) In the year the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition has been in power, it has faced generally smooth sailing, with an eviscer

Regional Dialogue

[1](#)16. (C) One of the Bush Administration's signature accomplishments in US-India relations has been our intensified dialogue in dealing with chs
SIPDIS interview in stressing our desire to engage constructively with India on the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline.

Iraq

¶17. (C) Mukherjee's visit will also be an opportunity to press for greater GOI engagement in Iraq. India pledged \$10 million for Iraq at the

Biography

¶18. (U) Pranab Kumar MUKHERJEE (pronounced: "moo-KER-jee")

Addressed as: Mr. Minister

Minister for Defense (since May 2004)

¶19. (SBU) Pranab Kumar Mukherjee (68) is one of most senior Congress Party stalwarts and strategists, as well as a close advisor to Sonia Ge

¶20. (C) Lacking military experience, he relies heavily on advisors for counsel on strategic and operational issues confronting the country's

¶21. (U) Mukherjee's political clout is reinforced by his membership in several influential committees. He is a senior member of the Cabinet

¶22. (U) Before taking the Defense Minister post, Mukherjee's experience in government was primarily in the economic area. In 2000-2001, he

¶23. (U) After the assassination of Indira Gandhi in 1984, Mukherjee failed to maintain good relations with Rajiv Gandhi, who expelled him fr

¶24. (U) Born into a middle-class freedom fighter's family on December 11, 1935 in West Bengal, Mukherjee has a Law degree and Masters degree

¶25. (U) A devout upper caste Hindu Brahmin, Mukherjee is married to Subhra. They have two sons and one daughter. His daughter, Sharmishtha

¶26. (U) Again, we thank you for hosting this visit of India's Defense Minister and look forward to a highly successful visit.

MULFORD